

schools for toilet construction is Rs.20,000/-. The programme is also converging with the Total Sanitation Programme to promote such facilities to cover all elementary schools.

Educational empowerment of OBCs

1569. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's hype over the educational empowerment of OBCs is not matching with the ground realities;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the comments of Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to allocate more funds during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) A Scheme of 'Post-Matric Scholarships to the OBC students' is already being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to promote higher education amongst the OBC students at the post-matric/post-secondary levels including Ph.D. degrees etc. The matter relating to reservation in admission of OBCs in the Central Educational Institutions in higher and profession education is presently *sub-judice* in the Supreme Court of India.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2698.00 crore has been provided in the current year's Plan Budget of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for implementation of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

Counselling cells in schools

†1570. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make it mandatory to set up a counselling cells in each and every school, in order to check the atrocities against and misconduct with the girl students in schools, to enable them to report their grievances;

(b) if so, by when a decision in this regard would be taken;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to check the atrocities against and misconduct with the girl students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Education being a concurrent subject, a vast majority of the schools come under the purview of State Governments. Ministry of Human Resource Development had written to all State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Governments/UT Administrations in August, 2006 to issue appropriate guidelines to all schools to ensure safety of girls in schools. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has also instructed all its affiliated schools to set up a complaint mechanism to deal with any complaint about misconduct with girl students and to constitute a Complaint Committee to ensure that there is no hostile environment towards women employees/girl students.

NISER at Bhubaneswar

1571. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR.:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa High Court has directed the Central Government to set up the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) at Bhubaneswar by August, 2007;

(b) whether Government have committed before the High Court that the NISER would be established and it would start functioning by August, 2007; and

(c) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) In a Writ Petition (C) No.10836 of 2005, the Government has submitted before the High Court of Orissa that the Government is taking follow up action for implementation of the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 28-08-2006 regarding setting up of a National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) at Bhubaneswar under the Department of Atomic Energy and that it is proposed to start the academic session from August, 2007. Taking cognizance of this, the Orissa High Court has disposed of the Writ Petition with a direction to the Government to ensure that the NISER is established at Bhubaneswar pursuant to the decision of the Government of India.

(c) The Department of Atomic Energy has informed that 300 acres of land has been allotted by the Government of Orissa for setting up of NISER. NISER has been registered under the Societies Registration Act and infrastructural facilities are being put in place. In addition, for admission to NISER, a NISER Entrance Screening Test. (NEST) followed by interview has been conducted and admission will commence on 10th September, 2007.

Sanskrit students in Delhi University colleges

†1572. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the scarcity of students in Sanskrit Department in various colleges of Delhi University during the academic year 2007-08;

(b) if so, the names of the colleges where seats of Sanskrit subject are vacant; and